Good evening commissioners,

My name is Casey Powers and I am the Division Director of Program Services with Interim, Inc. Through the last several months, Interim has continued to serve our unhoused population in the County and has supported clients without housing who are staying in motels funded through County funds. Our MCHOME staff have been working with clients currently staying in motels to work on finding transitional or permanent housing although we have encountered many barriers to housing some clients. Some of the barriers include chaotic use of substances, difficulty with adapting to rules of housing, and challenges related to mental health needs. Interim continues to work collaboratively with clients and other agencies to address these barriers and support client and community health and well-being.

Thank you for your time,

Casey Powers, LCSW #69535
(she/her/hers)
Division Director of Program Services
831-800-7530 x401 (desk)
831-717-8377 (cell)
831-784-0715 (fax)
Dear Secretary,

I realized this will not make it to the June meeting but I would like to submit it to the July Commission Meeting.

Thank you,

Teresa

From: Teresa Sullivan
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 1:52 PM
To: 'bhdcommunity@co.monterey.ca.us' <bhdcommunity@co.monterey.ca.us>
Subject: General Comment June 25th

From: Alliance on Aging

To: Chairman Mark Lopez and the Monterey County Health Commissioners

Subject: Update on services during COVID 19

Older adults are not only at greater risk for COVID 19 but have also been impacted by the isolation that is part of the Shelter in Place. Alliance on Aging has adapted our Senior Peer Counseling (SPC) model of in person one-one-one counseling and in person support groups during the Shelter in Place order. Our SPC program is funded through MCBH. Staff and volunteers are now providing these services remotely through phone calls, emails, texts and various video platforms,
including group Zoom meetings. These services are provided to both English and Spanish speakers. Our staff and volunteers have been reaching out to our clients, making at least weekly contact with them. When SIP began, there was a high level of anxiety and uncertainty about COVID 19 and the Shelter in Place order. Seniors reported confusion around the overwhelming volume of information in the media, some of it conflicting. They were relieved to hear from us who they regard as a trusted source. They were concerned about how and where they were going to get their food, mediations and other basic necessities while they were housebound. AOA redesigned our homepage to include the most current COVID information and resources including food and medication delivery and pickup services and senior hours. Staff reached out to local vendors, and service providers so we could include the most current COVID information and resources for the seniors on our homepage. We were able to share this with them when we spoke and refer them to this homepage. Seniors reported increased feelings of loneliness and isolation as SIP continued. Our SIP staff developed a series of 6 videos in English and Spanish to address the specific issues we were hearing from older adults during the SIP. These are posted on our website and the Senior Connect Page of MCBH’s website. Our message addresses the concern of if or when this will end. We reassure that it will end and we will continue to support them until then and after. These are clearly very challenging times in our country and community particularly for older adults. It is a daily exercise of pivoting to find ways to meet the unprecedented needs that present during this process. We appreciate more than ever our partners at Behavioral Health. We will continue to offer these services and make adjustments
to our service model as the situation evolve.

Thank you to the Commission for your support of our work with older adults.

Teresa Sullivan
Executive Director

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